IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Udo Klein et al   Art Unit   : 2173
Serial No. : 10/675,919   Examiner : Alvin H. Tan
Filed   : September 30, 2003   Conf. No. : 2088
Title   : SUCCESSIVELY DISPLAYING PANELS IN A COMPUTER USER
             INTERFACE

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY BRIEF TO EXAMINER'S ANSWER DATED NOVEMBER 21, 2007

Status of Claims

As stated in Applicant's Brief on Appeal.

Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

As stated in Applicant's Brief on Appeal.

Applicant : Udo Klein et al   Attorney's Docket No.: 16104-010001 / 2003P00683 US
Serial No. : 10/675,919
Filed   : September 30, 2003
Page   : 4 of 6

Argument

The Examiner's Answer asserts that the teachings of the McCormack reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,243,088) serve as a proper basis for the rejection that has been maintained since the first office action on the merits in the present application. As the Answer shows, however, this can only be done by improperly ignoring explicit language in the present claims.

To recapture, the present subject matter can in some implementations address situations such as the one described with reference to FIG. 3 of the present disclosure. There, a hyperlink 226 provides access to a panel called "Basic Pay". (Spec. 7:5-9.) There are, however, also navigation controls 212, 214 and 218 in FIG. 3 that can be used for reaching the Basic Pay panel. (Spec. 7:10-16.) Moreover, there are at least two settings of the navigation controls that cause the Basic Pay panel to be displayed. That is, the Basic Pay panel can be reached either by setting the controls to Actions—Hire—Basic Pay (FIG. 2), or by setting the controls to Masterdata—Contract Data—Basic Pay (FIG. 4).

But which one of the two different settings should be used? The question is answered in the independent claims themselves: the one setting should be used "by which more of the navigation controls remain unchanged from the first setting." In the Basic Pay example, the FIG. 4 approach requires only a change in the control 218, whereas the FIG. 2 approach, on the other hand, requires changes in all three controls 212, 214 and 218. (Spec. 7:22-31.) Thus, the setting in the FIG. 4 approach allows more of the navigation controls to remain unchanged and this setting is therefore used.

McCormack, in contrast, does not use controls with different "settings". This is because McCormack has arranged panels (206-226) in sequences that are traversed in an order according to the task (230-234) that the user selects. (McCormack 6:7-21.) Each panel in McCormack can have buttons called "Next", "Previous", "Cancel" and "Site"; the Next and Previous buttons navigate forward and backward in the sequence, respectively; the Cancel button returns to a main screen and the Site button is for user-specified functionality. (McCormack 6:22-62.)

As the Examiner notes, McCormack teaches that more than one sequence can include a particular panel. Particularly, McCormack describes that the panel 210 can be reached both in the sequence for the task 230 and in the sequence for the task 232. But in either situation, the panel is reached by clicking on the Next button from the previous panel, so there is no need for

Applicant : Udo Klein et al   Attorney's Docket No.: 16104-010001 / 2003P00683 US
Serial No. : 10/675,919
Filed   : September 30, 2003
Page   : 5 of 6

McCormack to choose which one of two different settings to use, and McCormick in fact does not have any such different settings to choose between. Moreover, the panel 210 including its buttons looks the same regardless which sequence the user is working in.

The Examiner's arguments in the Answer do not lead to a different conclusion. There, it is asserted that the navigation through different tasks somehow corresponds to different settings of the buttons. But the buttons remain the same in each panel (except the main screen) and so the Examiner's argument ignores the requirement that the navigation controls have "different" settings. The Examiner also asserts that "the cancel button, for example, would remain unchanged whether panel 210 is accessed from panel 208 using task 230 or accessed from panel 218 using task 232". This argument ignores the phrase "more of the navigation controls ... remain unchanged" in the present claims. That is, the Examiner does not state that any other setting would allow only fewer of the buttons to remain unchanged (in fact, McCormack teaches only the same controls on the panels 206-226, as discussed above.) Stated another way, the Examiner's argument appears to concede that the Cancel button remains unchanged no matter which task leads to the panel 210 being displayed. But if the same button is unchanged in either alternative, then McCormack fails to teach that the "one" setting by which "more" of the navigation controls remain unchanged is being used.

Thus, a proper reading shows that McCormack does not teach "at least two different settings of the navigation controls" that cause the same panel to be displayed. Moreover, because there are no such "different settings", there is no disclosure in McCormack of using the one of the different settings "by which more of the navigation controls remain unchanged".

Conclusion

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, appellant requests the Board to overturn the rejections of the pending claims.

Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06 1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/22/08

J. Richard Soderberg
Reg. No. 43,352

Fish & Richardson P.C.
60 South Sixth Street
Suite 3300
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 335-5070
Facsimile: (612) 288-9696

60478994.doc